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10/715,134

Amendments to the Drawings:

The enclosed drawing sheet includes an amendment to FIG. 6. Reference number 112 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Remarks

A. Pending Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, and 15 have been amended. Claims 4, 7, 10, 14, and 22 have been canceled. Claims 23-27 are new. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 21, and 23-27 are pending

B. Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because reference character 112 was not present in any of the drawings. Applicant has amended FIG. 6 to include reference character 112.

C. Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification based on informalities on page 10, line 13. Applicant has amended the specification as required by the Examiner.

D. 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner takes the position that the specification does not disclose that the rollers can be coupled to the pads. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended claim 8 to recite: “a pad holder for at least one of the pads and at least one roller coupled to the pad holder.” Applicant respectfully requests removal of this rejection.

E. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 6 for clarification.

F. The Claims Are Not Anticipated by Weitz Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,065,890 to Weitz (hereinafter “Weitz”).

The standard for “anticipation” is one of fairly strict identity. To anticipate a claim of a patent, a single prior source must contain all the claimed essential elements. *Hybritech, Inc. v. Monoclonal Antibodies, Inc.*, 802 F.2d 1367, 231 U.S.P.Q.81, 91 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *In re Donahue*, 766 F.2d 531, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to describe combinations of features including: “wherein the plurality of pads comprises two or more front pads, wherein the two or more front pads comprise substantially planar front surfaces, wherein the substantially planar front surfaces are substantially co-planar with one another”. Support for the amendments may be found in Applicant’s specification at least in FIG. 7B and 7C and on page 5, lines 5-11.

Weitz discloses a cleaning apparatus having a washing element and a wiping element situated in coincidentally spaced relation to one another such that a surface is cleaned by synchronized washing and wiping (Weitz, Abstract). Weitz does not appear to teach or suggest two or more front pads including substantially planar front surfaces, the substantially planar front surfaces being substantially co-planar with one another, in combination with the other features of claims 1 and 12. Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 12 and the claims dependent

thereon are allowable over the cited art.

Applicant submits that many of the claims dependent on claim 1 are independently patentable over Weitz. For example, amended claim 5 recites: “wherein the plurality of pads comprises one or more top pads adjacent to one or more of the front pads, wherein at least one of the one or more top pads is configured to contact a top face of the baseboard when the substantially planar front surfaces of the two or more front pads are in contact with the front face of the baseboard, wherein at least one of the one or more top pads is configured to wipe the top face of the baseboard at the same time the two or more front pads wipe the front face of the baseboard.” The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least the above quoted features of claim 5.

G. The Claims Are Not Anticipated by Bradley Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,042,952 to Bradley (hereinafter “Bradley”).

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to describe combinations of features including: “wherein the two or more front pads comprise substantially planar front surfaces, wherein the substantially planar front surfaces are substantially co-planar with one another, and wherein the substantially planar front surfaces are configured to simultaneously contact a front face of the baseboard during use such that the substantially planar front surfaces of the two or more front pads can be sequentially wiped across the front face of the baseboard in a single motion”. Support for the amendments may be found in Applicant’s specification at least in FIGS. 1, 2, 7B and 7C and on page 5, lines 5-14; page 9, lines 8-21.

Bradley discloses a baseboard duster and application having two pads “secured to opposite exterior surfaces” of a pair a spaced parallel plates (See Bradley, FIGS. 1, 4; column 2,

lines 14-15; line 31). Bradley states: “When a person desires to rub the opposite pad 12 against the baseboard he lifts and relatively reverses the applicator by the handle 11, turns the handle half a revolution, and the weight of the rollers will cause the applicator to remain in an upright position.” (Bradley, column 2, lines 31-35). Bradley discloses an applicator with two pads on opposite surfaces of a device and spaced parallel to one another in which the handle of the device is reversed in order to switch pads. Bradley does not appear to teach or suggest two or more front pads including substantially planar front surfaces, the substantially planar front surfaces being substantially co-planar with one another, and the substantially planar front surfaces being configured to simultaneously contact a front face of the baseboard during use such that the substantially planar front surfaces of the two or more front pads can be sequentially wiped across the front face of the baseboard in a single motion, in combination with the other features of claims 1 and 12. Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 12 and the claims dependent thereon are allowable over Bradley.

Applicant submits that many of the claims dependent on claim 1 are independently patentable over Bradley. For example, amended claim 5 recites: “wherein the plurality of pads comprises one or more top pads adjacent to one or more of the front pads, wherein at least one of the one or more top pads is configured to contact a top face of the baseboard when the substantially planar front surfaces of the two or more front pads are in contact with the front face of the baseboard, wherein at least one of the one or more top pads is configured to wipe the top face of the baseboard at the same time the two or more front pads wipe the front face of the baseboard.” The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least the above quoted features of claim 5.

H. New Claims

New claim 23 recites: “wherein at least one of the one or more top pads is adjacent to and

substantially perpendicular to one of the two or more front pads.” The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least this feature of claim 23.

New claim 24 recites: “wherein one of the front pads is a leading front pad and another of the front pads is a trailing front pad, and wherein the one or more top pads comprise a leading top pad adjacent to the to leading front pad and a trailing top pad adjacent to the trailing front pad, wherein the leading front pad and the trailing front pad are configured to be sequentially wiped across the top face of the baseboard when the front pads are sequentially wiped across the front face of the baseboard.” The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least this feature of claim 24.

New claim 25 recites: “wherein the at least one of the leading top pad and the trailing top pad are vertically adjustable relative to the leading front pad and the trailing front pad.” The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least this feature of claim 25.

New claim 26 recites: “wherein the liquid dispenser is configured to provide a liquid to the leading front pad or the leading top pad.” The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least this feature of claim 26.

New claim 27 recites: “wherein one of the front pads is a leading front pad and another of the front pads is a trailing front pad, and wherein the one or more top pads comprise a leading top pad adjacent to the to leading front pad and a trailing top pad adjacent to the trailing front pad, wherein the leading front pad and the trailing front pad are configured to be sequentially wiped across the top face of the baseboard when the front pads are sequentially wiped across the front face of the baseboard, the apparatus further comprising a pad holder for at least one of the pads and at least one roller coupled to the pad holder, wherein the at least one roller is configured to roll along a floor below the baseboard as the leading front pad and the trailing front pad are

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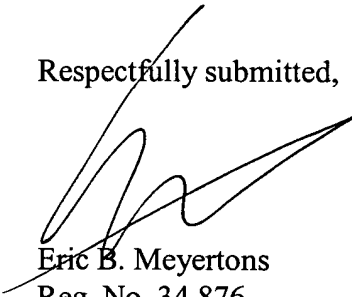
wiped across the front face of the baseboard and the leading top pad and the trailing top pad are wiped across the top face of the baseboard.” The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least this feature of claim 27.

I. Additional Remarks

Based on the above, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5806-00101/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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